



Washington Park ARBORETUM BULLETIN

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Concerning This Issue . . .

I've been in my new garden for almost a year, and one of the compost heaps is ready to use. In addition to soil nutrients, it is yielding everything I inadvertently dumped from the wheelbarrow last year (a hack saw, a glove) plus some overextended lungwort, bulbs, and primroses. Fortunately, they were blooming better than ever at the top of the heap just when I needed them. If my "roam phone" didn't ring occasionally under wheelbarrow debris, it too would have been emerging with volunteer flowers and tools during the spring cycle of compost.

The cycles of quite a few board members are up this year, including Kelly Dodson, Steven Lorton, Sarah Reichard, Mary Robson, and Richard Walker. Some of them plan to compost themselves a little, become renewed and further enriched, and show up next year on the top of the *Bulletin* heap. Everyone has volunteered for *Bulletin* projects, which indicates how dedicated this diverse group of professionals is.

Board dedication applies to even more remotely emeritus members, such as Mary Booth, who suggested we highlight the plants linked to Brian Mulligan, director emeritus of the Arboretum. Jan Pirzio-Biroli has just finished that lengthy work, excerpted here.

On another note, you can groove with "Those Latin Sounds & Rhythms" by C. Hamilton—not Chico, the drummer, but Clem, the director of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), which oversees the Arboretum. Clem explains how to pronounce the Latin names of plants.

Other music is provided by birds attracted to our gardens. Kevin Burke explains which native shrubs attract which birds. Mary Sue Gee is fascinated with a larger native—the Garry oak—and her article explains how to use it in the landscape and find it *in situ* throughout western Washington. And Jim Thomas offers the unusual history of a black pine that has taken its place in the Japanese Garden.

If you have ever wondered how the Washington Park Arboretum collections generally compare with other regional collections, former CUH graduate student Larry Vickerman discusses his observations. Valerie Easton writes about visiting these and other gardens, and John Wott focuses on the Arboretum during spring.

An enthusiastic welcome is in order to our new consultant in charge of publicizing the events and programs of The Arboretum Foundation. Regen Dennis will help promote and market the *Cultivated Palate*, the Foundation's beautiful new cookbook, and work on events and public information in the Washington Park Arboretum.

Jan Silver, Editor
The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin

*Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'**Erythrina*

To pronounce the botanical Latin names of these trees, see page 4.

CONTENTS

Features

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | The New, Old Pine in the Japanese Garden
<i>by Jim Thomas</i> |
| 4 | Those Latin Sounds & Rhythms—Pronouncing Botanical Latin <i>by Clement W. Hamilton</i> |
| 8 | Roots of the Garry Oak <i>by Mary Sue Gee</i> |
| 11 | Comparing Woody Plant Collections of Western Washington <i>by Larry G. Vickerman</i> |
| 14 | Attracting Birds with Northwest Native Shrubs
<i>by Kevin Burke</i> |
| 18 | Who's in a Name? <i>by Jan Pirzio-Biroli</i> |

Columns

- | | |
|----|---|
| 24 | New on the Shelves of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library:
Plants and Gardens—Where, What, & How?
<i>by Valerie Easton</i> |
| 25 | For Further Information: Visiting Public Gardens
<i>by Valerie Easton</i> |
| 27 | In the Washington Park Arboretum <i>by John A. Wott</i>

Find plants on view in the Washington Park Arboretum in the newly revised <i>The Woody Plant Collection in the Washington Park Arboretum</i> . |

Cover: A large specimen of *Rosa caudata*, here with *Philadelphus coronarius 'Aureus'*, in the gardens of Heronswood Nursery, Ltd. The Arboretum has a regionally unduplicated collection of species roses (see page 11) that originally included a *Rosa caudata* accession. Photo courtesy of Daniel Hinkley.

The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin is published quarterly as a bonus of membership in The Arboretum Foundation. The Arboretum Foundation is a non-profit organization that was chartered to further the development of the Washington Park Arboretum, its projects and programs, by means of volunteer service and fund raising. The Washington Park Arboretum is administered through cooperative efforts between the University of Washington, its Center for Urban Horticulture, and the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation. The programs and plant collections are a responsibility of the Center for Urban Horticulture.

The mission of The Arboretum Foundation is to ensure stewardship for the Washington Park Arboretum, a Pacific Northwest treasure, and to provide horticultural leadership for the region. This stewardship requires effective leadership, stable funding, and broad public support.

Articles on gardening and horticulturally related subjects are welcome. Please call the *Bulletin* for guidelines. For permission to reprint any part of the *Arboretum Bulletin*, please contact The Arboretum Foundation. © 1994 The Arboretum Foundation. ISSN 1046-8749.

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The New, Old Pine in the Japanese Garden

by Jim Thomas

Sometime in the early 1920s, Masagoro Yamasaki received a young Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) from a client of his landscape company. He planted the tree in front of his home on South Holly Street here in Seattle. Over the years, Mr. Yamasaki trained the pine in the Japanese style. As his sons Bill and Dick grew up they worked with their father in his gardening business and took part in maintaining the pine tree in their front yard.

The annual cycle of fall pruning and spring candling of this pine tree continued until the family was relocated because of World War II. The elder Yamasaki was relocated immediately. Sometime later, Dick was sent to a different center than his father.

After the war, Masagoro Yamasaki settled in Portland. Dick returned to the family home in Seattle with his wife, Fumi, in May 1945. Bill joined them after his discharge from the military.

Together they began rebuilding the family business and resumed the maintenance of the pine tree.

In 1959, the Yamasaki Landscape Company was selected as one of the contractors for the construction of the Japanese Garden in Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum. With guidance from the garden's designer, Professor Juki Iida, Dick and his brother Bill were involved in placing the rocks around the lake and waterfall area. Bill operated the truck-mounted backhoe used to place the smaller stones. Dick recalls spending many hours on his knees placing the cobbles on the stone peninsula, trying to recreate the rocky peninsula found in the famous garden at Katsura Rikyu, in Kyoto, Japan.

Over the years, Dick Yamasaki and his crew were contracted by The Arboretum Foundation to prune the pines and other plants in the Japanese Garden. Each visit to the garden reinforced the landscaping lessons he had learned from Professor Iida: the importance of the void or space between the objects, the contrast of form and mass, and the artful use and placement of stone.

On Professor Iida's last visit to Seattle in the mid-1970s, he impressed upon Dick one more lesson: the importance of consistent maintenance. No matter how beautifully a garden is designed, all is lost without proper and timely care.

When the Seattle Park Department took over maintenance and operation of the Japanese Gar-

Joy Spurr



Pinus thunbergii, a Japanese black pine donated to the Japanese garden
by Richard Yamasaki's family.

den from the University of Washington in 1981, Dick Yamasaki was retained as consultant and pruning contractor. He spent untold hours in the garden instructing the new gardeners in proper techniques and sharing the lessons he learned from his Sensei, Professor Iida. I was fortunate to be one of the gardeners receiving this instruction. Having been appointed senior gardener for the Park Department crew in the Arborètum the previous year, I was given permission to help out in the Japanese Garden when it became a park facility.

The appointed gardener and I were full of ideas that we were sure would enhance the garden. Dick would always reign us in before we could run amuck by saying, "That's a good idea, something we will give a great deal of thought to in the future." He taught us to take time, to "sit on the stone" and observe before we acted and then, once we undertook something, to follow it through to the end—and be consistent.

When I returned as head gardener in 1989, Dick was ready to retire. Over the years before he left, he had mentioned a tree in his yard at home that he wanted to give to the Japanese Garden. He expressed his hope that the Park Department would accept the gift and that we could find a place for it. A site was selected, and a few years were spent gradually reshaping the surrounding plantings to make room.

In December 1993, the Horticulture Unit of Seattle Park Department hand dug and transported the now-venerable black pine from Dick's yard to the Japanese Garden. With Mr. Yamasaki's successor, Masa Mizuno, on hand to advise and a member of his crew, Mark Akai, to assist, the pine was planted in the north end of the garden above the steps at the west end of the village wall.

This beautiful specimen, now over 80 years old, stands about 7 feet tall with a spread over 8 feet. The trunk with heavily furrowed bark has a 14-inch diameter at its base. It enhances this portion of the Garden by repeating the rounded form of two other pine trees on the north hill.

As it adapts and grows into its place, it will serve as a living tribute to Dick Yamasaki's generosity and devotion to our Japanese Garden for over 30 years.

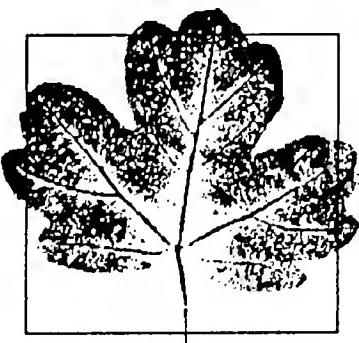
Thank you Dick, thank you Sensei.

Jim Thomas is head gardener of the Japanese Garden in the Washington Park Arboretum. The garden is managed by the City of Seattle.

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Those Latin Sounds & Rhythms

Pronouncing Botanical Latin

by Clement W. Hamilton

In a recent issue of the Bulletin (56:3), Clem Hamilton discussed Latin scientific names for plants and explained their significance, meaning, and proper use. That is only half the story of communication with plant names because every day we must say these names so they are easily understood. It is not difficult, however, because the rules are essentially the same that guide our normal English pronunciation.

Some Philistines scoff at the notion of proper pronunciation of botanical Latin. But who among us wants to wonder why everyone is snickering after we have pronounced *Cotoneaster* as if it were "cotton Easter"? At best, such gaffes make the speaker look silly; at worse, they confuse the listener.

Latin botanical names at first appear to be long, inscrutable, and forbidding. With just a little study and practice, however, anyone can become proficient at picking these words apart and confidently pronouncing them correctly and credibly. It is easy because the *rules for pronouncing botanical Latin are essentially the same ones we use to pronounce any unfamiliar word in English.*



Iris. The British say Ee-ris, we say Eye-ris.

Botanists and horticulturists in the United States agree that consistent pronunciation of Latin scientific names is best achieved by using English sounds for vowels and consonants and classical Latin rules for accenting syllables. For the vast majority of names, this approach will yield unambiguous and correct results.

Internationally, botanists and horticulturists differ in their pronunciations due to different sounds ascribed to vowels and consonants. In Great Britain, for instance, a long "i" is pronounced "ee," whereas in the US we say "eye." We say "Eye-ris" for *Iris* while the British say "Ee-ris." In general, British pronunciation derives sounds from "reformed academic" pronunciation accepted by classical scholars, whereas Americans use traditional English sounds. It is simple to keep these differences straight and to realize that the rules of pronunciation remain constant while details such as vowel sounds differ across borders. The major difference between conventional English and botanical Latin is that the latter has no silent vowels such as the silent "e" often used in English (e.g., maple).

The Basic Rules

Almost all situations you will encounter in pronouncing Latin botanical names are covered in the six numbered sections of this article.

SYMBOLS

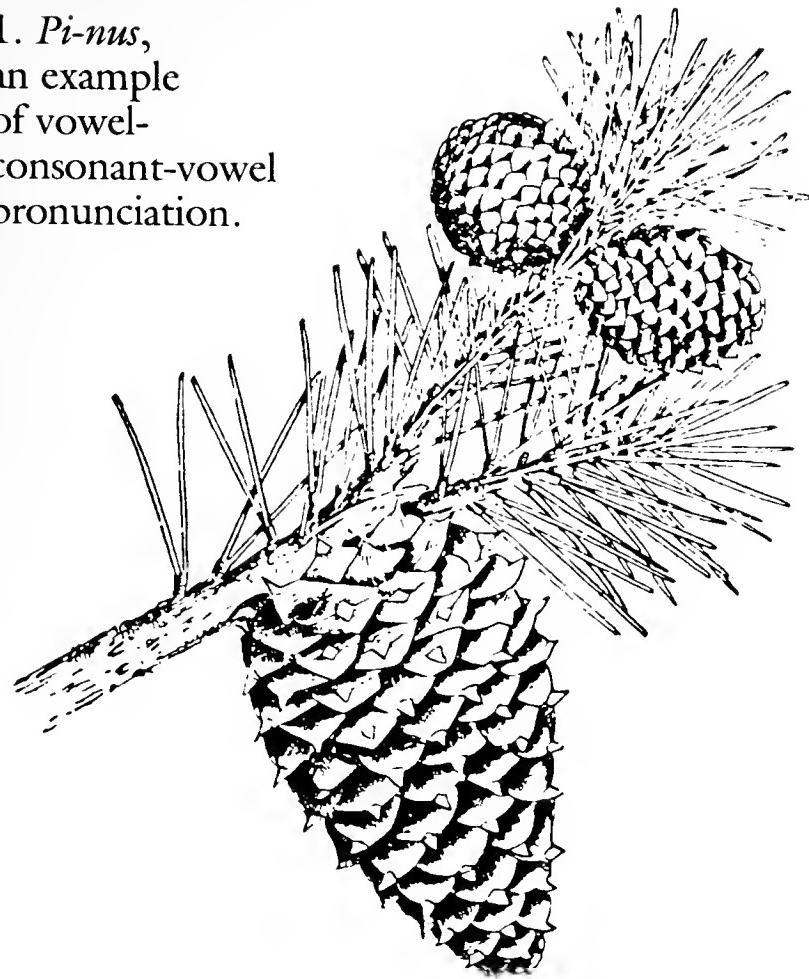
- divides syllables
- ' indicates an accent on the syllable that follows
 - above a vowel indicates long sound
 - above a vowel indicates short sound
- underlining emphasizes the letters to focus on

1. Syllables

The first step in pronouncing an unfamiliar name is to divide it into syllables. The name has as many syllables as it has separate vowels and/or diphthongs (two vowels combining to make one sound).

- a. When a word has a vowel-consonant-vowel, the division goes between the vowel and consonant, e.g., *Pi-nus*. Exception: x always goes with the vowel before, e.g., *ex-al-ta-ta*.
- b. When a word has vowel-consonant-consonant-vowel, the division goes between the two consonants, e.g., *pun-gens*. Exceptions: When the first consonant is b, c, d, g, k, p, or t and the second consonant is l or r (e.g., br, bl, pr, pl), the two are considered as one and both join the following vowel, e.g., *ni-gra*. Also, the pairs ch, ph,

1. *Pi-nus*,
an example
of vowel-
consonant-vowel
pronunciation.



and th always stick together, e.g., *For-sy-thi-a*.

c. When more than two consonants come between two vowels, keep together those combinations mentioned above that make just one sound, e.g. *Li-gus-trum*, *Daph-ne*.

2. Vowel Sounds

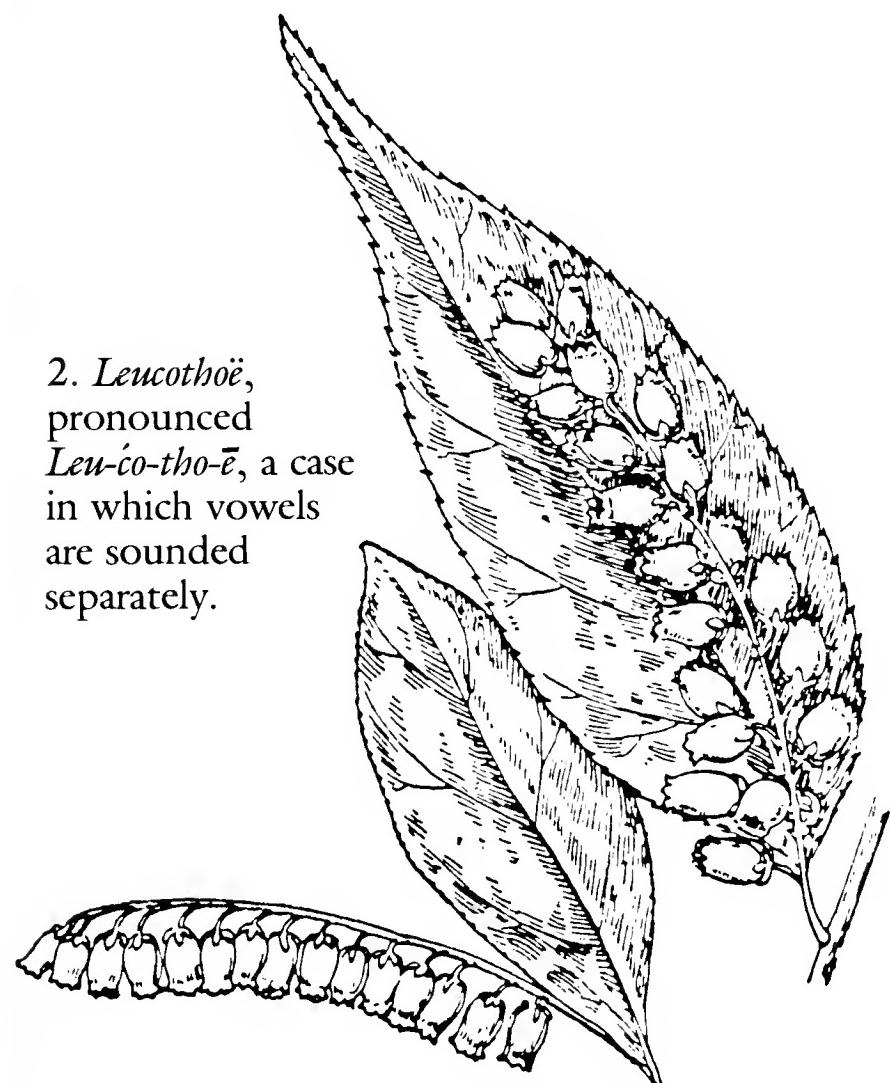
In the United States, long and short vowel sounds are roughly the following: long ā as in hay, short ā as in far; long ē as in meet, short ē as in met; long ī (or ī) as in pine, short ī (or ī) as in pin; long ō as in cone, short ō is in not; long ū as in flute, short ū as in rub.

a. The vowel in a syllable that ends in a consonant is always short, e.g., *pún-géns*.

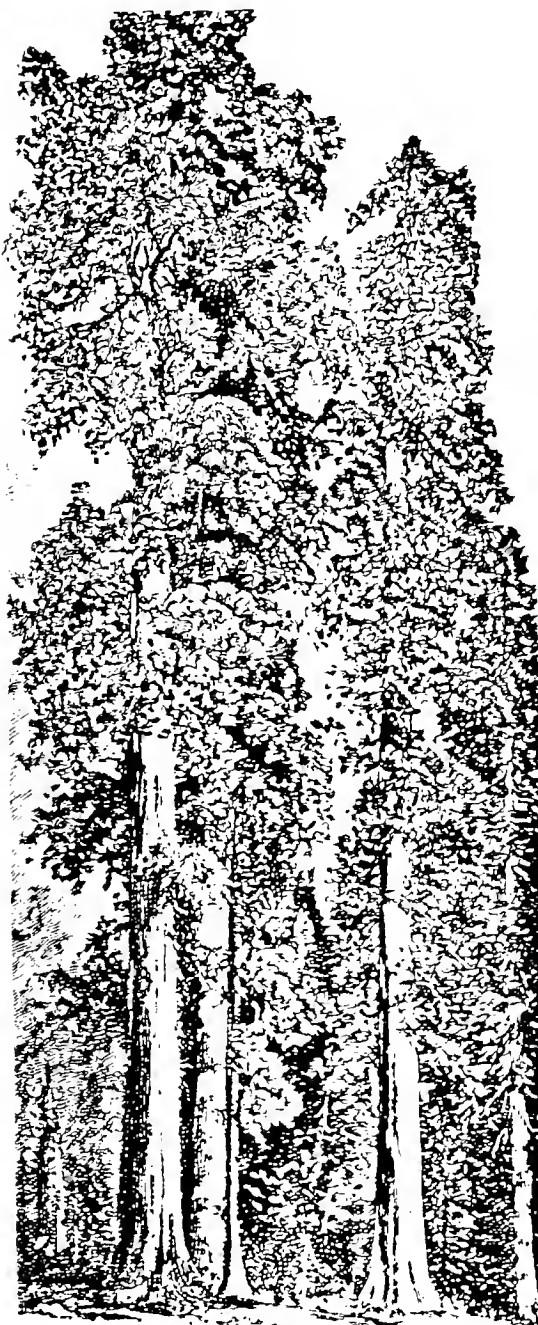
b. Several diphthongs are common: au sounds like awful, ei usually sounds like ē, and eu sounds like ū, as in *Eu-ca-lyp-tus*. Special diphthongs ae and oe sound like ē, as in *encyclopaedia* and *oecology* (old spellings), respectively; the only exception is when they are written aë or oë, in which case the two vowels are sounded separately as in *Leucothoë*, pronounced *Leu-có-tho-ē*.

c. Latin occasionally has vowel combinations not encountered in everyday English. One is "ii" at the end of species epithets, such as *davidii*. Each i is pronounced separately, as in *da-vi-dee-eye*. Family names usually end in -aceae, pronounced -á-ce-ee, with a mild hiccup between the last two syllables.

2. *Leucothoë*,
pronounced
Leu-có-tho-ē, a case
in which vowels
are sounded
separately.



3. *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, an example of both a soft g consonant sound (first g) and a hard g (second one).



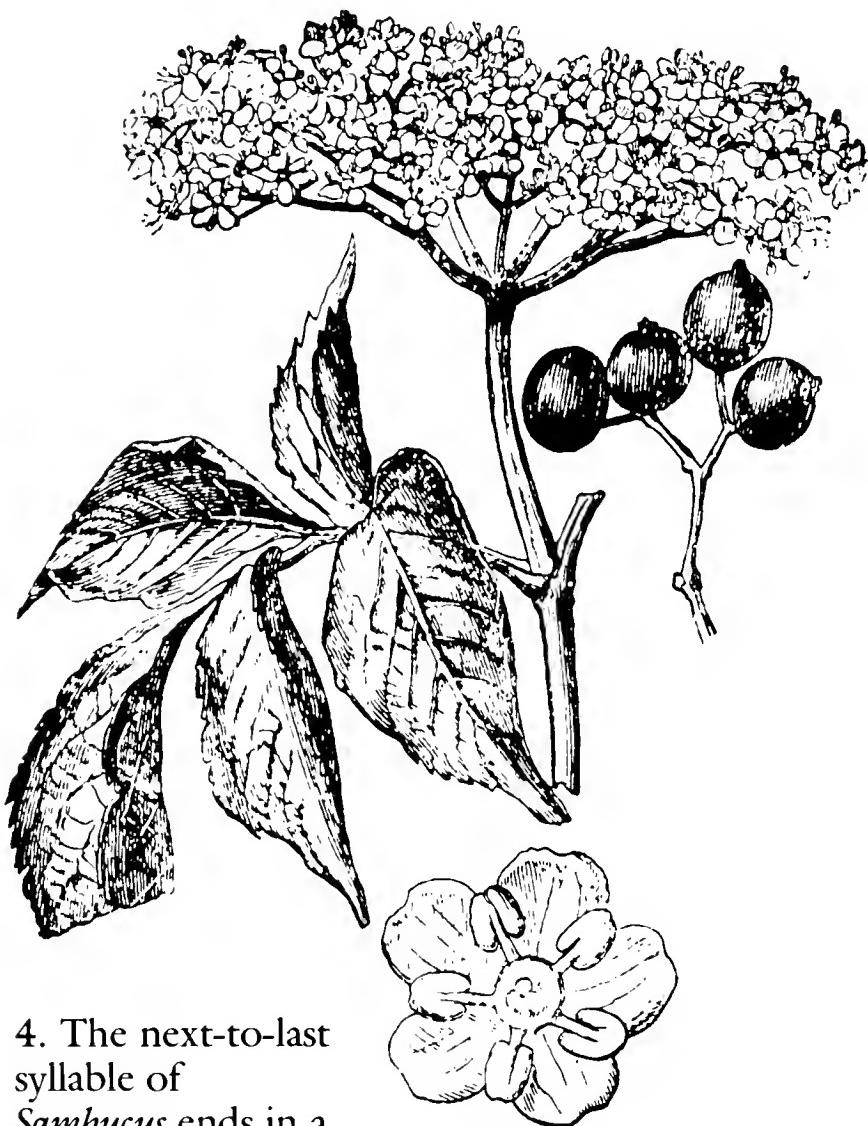
3. Consonant Sounds

Botanical Latin holds no surprises here, with consonants performing in expected ways. The letters c and g can be hard (*Calendula*, *Gaultheria*) or soft (*Cichorium*, *giganteum*), depending upon which vowel follows. Sometimes a consonant is silent, as are the p and t in *Pseudotsuga*. All such rules are obvious and are not unique to Latin scientific names.

4. Accenting

The key syllable that determines the accenting of syllables is the next-to-last one.

a. When it ends in a consonant, two things happen: that next-to-last syllable is accented and its



4. The next-to-last syllable of *Sambucus* ends in a long vowel, so that syllable gets the accent: *Sam-bu-cus*.

vowel is short, e.g., *Os-mān-thus*, *Ne-lūm-bo*, *'he-te-ro-phyl-la*.

b. When it ends in a long vowel, that syllable gets the accent, e.g., *Co-tī-nus*, *Sam-bū-cus*, *'glyp-to-stro-bo-i-des*.

c. When it ends in a short vowel, the accent goes to the syllable before the next-to-last, e.g., *Ge-rā-ni-um*, *Hy-pe-ri-cum*, *Co-lē-us*. Note that when the accent shifts back to the second from the end and that syllable ends in a vowel, that syllable gets the accent whether the vowel is long or short: the a in *Geranium* and the o in *Coleus* are long, but the e in *Hypericum* is short.

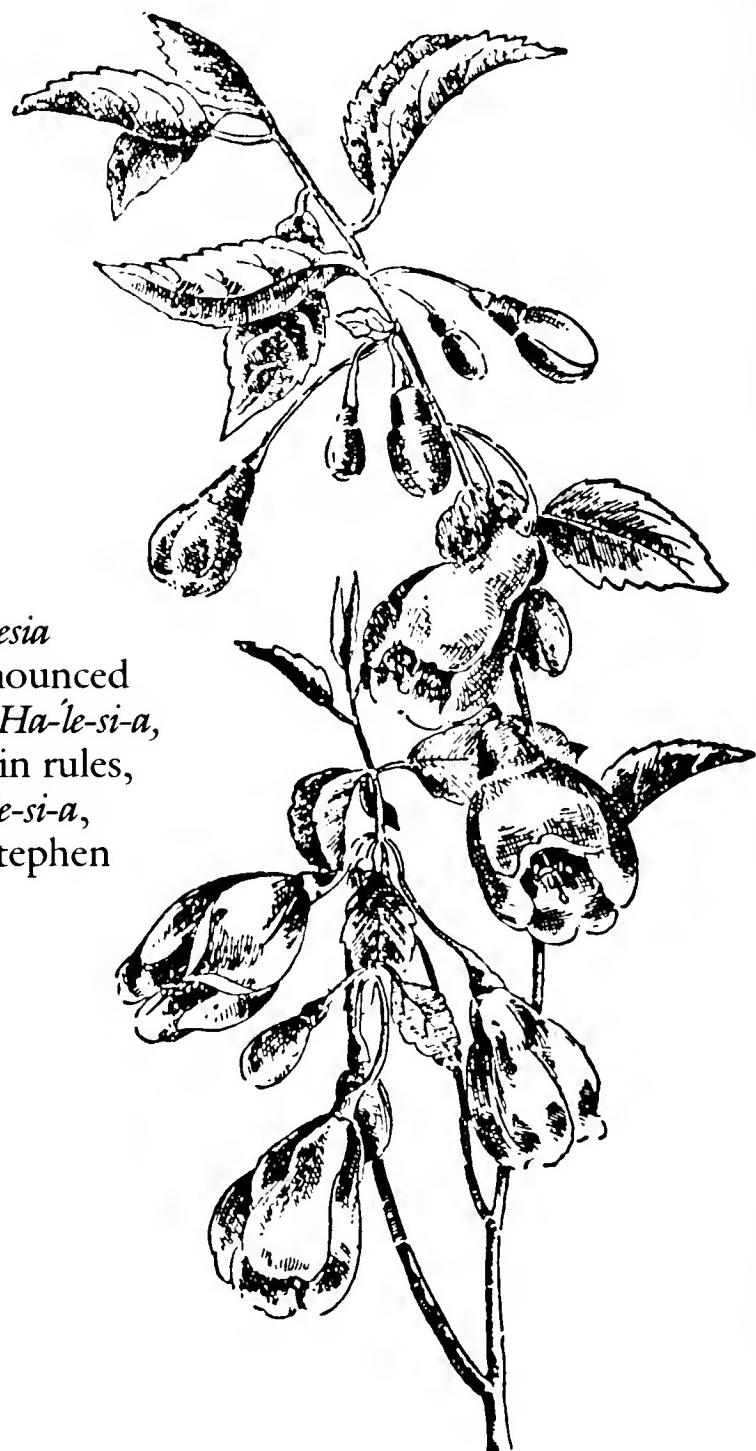
When there is no pronouncing dictionary to determine whether the crucial vowel ending the next-to-last syllable is long or short, it is possible to make an educated guess by trying both possibilities: long vowel and accent the syllable or short vowel and accent the syllable before. Usually one of them will sound somewhat bizarre, so eliminate it and go with the other; your intuition develops with practice. For example, *Erythrina*. *E-ryth-ri-*

na sounds better than *E-ryth-ri-na*, so gamble confidently on the former.

Once you know whether to accent the next-to-last syllable or the one previous, you can work backwards into a long name and everything falls easily into place, e.g., *Cer-ci-di-phyl-lum*.

5. Commemorative Names

Plant names that commemorate a person provide instances where discretion is allowed on the part of the speaker. It does not matter whether *Halesia* is pronounced according to Stephen Hale's name (*Hale-si-a*) or by the Latin rules (*Ha-le-si-a*), although consistency is advisable. Anyone pedantically insisting that pronunciation follow that of the person's name should be reminded of



5. *Halesia* is pronounced either *Ha-le-si-a*, by Latin rules, or *Hale-si-a*, after Stephen Hale.

Magnolia; it is named for the Frenchman Pierre Magnol, so must it be said "mon-yo-li-a"?

6. Infraspecific Names and Hybrids

In pronouncing the names of infraspecific taxa (those within a species), such as *Acer palmatum* var. *matsumurae*, say the "label word" (e.g., variety, subspecies or forma). Do not say the "x" in a hybrid name; *Taxus × media* is said *Taxus media*.



6. The “x” is not pronounced in hybrid names such as *Mentha x piperita*.

References

Many standard reference works include usually reliable ways to properly pronounce botanical Latin.

Coombes, A. J. 1985. *Dictionary of Plant Names*. Portland, OR: Timber Press. Although consistently correct, it is British, so Americans must substitute their vowel and consonant sounds (e.g., the British say ae as in mite, long i as in meet, hard g as in gate, j as in you).

Florist's Publishing Company. 1964 (reprinted annually). *New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names*. Chicago: Florist's Publishing Company.

Rehder, Alfred. 1986. *Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs Hardy in North America*. 2nd ed. Portland, OR: Dioscorides Press. This usually provides reliable indications of pronunciation.

Smith, A. W. 1963. *A Gardener's Book of Plant Names*, rev. ed. (by W. T. Stearn). New York: Harper and Row. Use this dictionary for an excellent discussion of the subject. Although out of print, it is available in the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library.

Clement W. Ha-mil-ton is director of the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture, which oversees the Arboretum, and is associate professor of Horticultural Taxonomy. He teaches taxonomy and landscape plant selection and has served on the editorial board of *The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*.

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Mature trees and thin woods on grassland south of Tacoma.

Roots of the Garry Oak

Photo & text by Mary Sue Gee

Besides its familiar wet and forested landscapes, Puget Sound hosts special areas of gravelly prairies and parklands, home of the native Garry oak, *Quercus garryana*. Inclined to greatness in age and character, Garry oaks provide park-like landscapes full of plant and human heritage, good potential for garden use, and habitat for the threatened western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*).

Garry oak, also known as Oregon white oak, began growing in the Pacific Northwest some 10,000 years ago, about the same time as humans arrived here. Conditions of gravelly soil from glacial action, a warming climate, and exposed open spaces were hospitable to the species.

Garry oaks need fast drainage and full force of sun and wind. In Washington State, these areas exist from the Columbia River Basin to the San Juan islands, including the open prairie country

bordering Puget Sound. Here we can view Garry oaks in everyday scenes along roadsides and in cemeteries, parks, preserves, and gardens.

Although any season is a good time to survey oaks, late winter and early spring catch the mature oak leafless, showing off its heavy trunk with stout limbs that ascend, huge and gnarly, into a robust crown of branches terminating in thick, short twigs. Sometimes the oaks bear helpful identifiers such as last year's toast-brown leaves and occasional oak galls from an insect-borne disease. In summer, its high, rounded crown looks like an umbrella shingled with leaves, lobed and green.

In bygone autumns, Native Americans depended upon oak prairies, burning them to enhance food gathering and production for the coming year. Prairie creeks supplied salmon, grasslands provided camas and tiger lily bulbs, oaks yielded acorns. Anthropologist Helen Norton wrote that hundreds of bushels of acorns were harvested annually in "peculiar little prairies," referring to the prairie-savannas in this landscape. Drought-tolerant vegetation characterizes an extensive grassland enlivened by an abundance of prairie flowers and scattered groves of oaks (Norton 1979).

Open prairies and oak parklands declined with

Euroamerican settlement and the subsequent suppression of prairie fires. South of Tacoma, Seeley Lake Park is a remnant Garry oak prairie that demonstrates not only decline but additional pressures of urban development. Still, thin woods and single trees exist. Impressive, often 60 feet high and 3 feet in diameter, these open-grown oaks are 200 to 300 years old and form a semi-open canopy over disturbed prairie grass and forbs.

Without the prairie fires that managed plant populations, some oak woodlands have closed to a solid canopy of old oaks covering a middle story of younger oaks of forest-grown form, thin and tall. At Scatter Creek Wildlife Area in Thurston County, 1269 acres contain old oak woods that skirt the creek and border adjacent prairies grazed since 1860. Walking the prairie, you can reach out and touch seedling Douglas-firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)—a successional change at hand—that are invading the prairie.

Picturesque Oak Patch Lake mirrors relic stands of oak snags that angle from the midst of the encroaching forest of fir. But the firs hide more than oaks. Known as the Oak Patch maze of lakes, surrounding countryside conceals remarkable plants in bogs with gliding swans and in communities of western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), and manzanita (*Arc-tostaphylos columbiana*). North of the lake, lodgepole pines (*Pinus contorta*) grow over a dense, evergreen ground cover of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). At wood's edge, its lemon-shaped leaves fuse with the small, leathery leaves of kinnikinnik (*Arc-tostaphylos uva-ursi*). Subtle touches accent this solid canvas: crimson Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), erect huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), and twiggy ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*).

Also near Oak Patch Lake, the Department of Natural Resources manages a natural area preserve embracing an Oregon white oak–conifer mosaic. Part of DNR's restoration strategy includes removal of some invasive conifers and shrubs and prescribed burns. Behind the preserve's fence, the DNR works to slow down successional changes, to return the landscape to its prairie-savanna type and to perpetuate oak habitat into the future.

Garry oak as a tree for the urban garden deserves attention. "One of the finest possible shade trees for garden use," writes John Grant (1967), "casting moderately light shade and with a well-behaved root system." Besides filtered shade, the deciduous leaves allow rain to penetrate under-

stories and provide acidic mulch in autumn. Being a deep-rooted species, oaks are drought resistant; plantings underneath have less competition, and roots do not disrupt adjacent hard surfaces or buildings. Arthur Kruckeberg (1992) suggests that growth is slow, "giving small specimens long-term occupancy in the garden."

Although reportedly difficult to establish, oak seedlings will pop through a thick compost of oak leaves with acorns. In December, a friend and I carefully lifted seven seedlings, one to three years old. Tap roots were 12 to 24 inches long, one to two times greater in length than stems. These seedlings were transplanted into deep containers. If they survive a season's growth, the small oaks may be used in a local mitigation project, in which the removal of several large oaks during suburban development will be softened by replanting oak seedlings and an associated understory.

Oak prairies and parklands are natural models for garden design and plant selection. Garry oaks supply verticality and focus in a ground cover of lawn or grass sporting favorable prairie plants such as native camas lily (*Camassia esculenta*), self-heal (*Prunella*), *Brodiaea coronaria*, violets, yarrow, lupines, and fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*). For gardeners who prefer less lawn, Garry oaks associate well with shrubs. Borders or islands can include native roses (*Rosa nutkana* and *R. gymnocarpa*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), ocean spray, serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), and Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*). For a mixed oak woods, as in the Washington Park Arboretum, small trees add diversity to the community. Madrone, hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), and cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*) are common associates in nature.

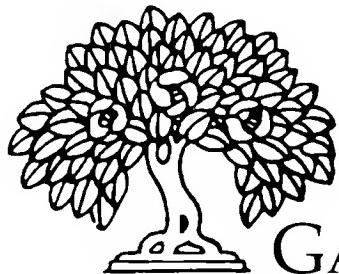
Found in drought-resistant gardens or in prairies, in parklands, and in preserves, Garry oaks shape a unique community that bestows habitat not only for humans, but also wildlife. Besides the threatened western gray squirrel, the Lewis's woodpecker, the white-breasted nuthatch, and the western bluebird thrive in oak environments. Walking prairies and viewing oaks can delight the eye. But this also helps people to learn about past history and regional roots, knowledge that can help us grow in harmony in the Pacific Northwest.

Mary Sue Gee writes from Tacoma, Washington.

To view or purchase *Quercus garryana*,
see next page.



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Viewing Garry Oaks

King County: Washington Park Arboretum

Location: 2300 Arboretum Drive East, Seattle, Washington

Open: Daylight hours

Directions: From Interstate 5, take the East Madison Street exit. Follow East Madison Street, turn right on to Arboretum Drive East. Park near the Graham Visitors Center.

Landscape: From the main west door of Graham Visitors Center, locate an old madrona to the right of Azalea Way. Head for it and veer northerly. On a knoll in this 42-2E area (see the map in the newly published *The Woody Plant Collection in the Washington Park Arboretum*), young forest-form Garry oaks grow as part of the oak family plantings.

Mason County: Oak Patch Lake.

Location: Northwest of Belfair

Open: daylight hours

Directions: From Highway 300, turn west on Haven Lake Road; go north on Elfendahl Pass Road. Beyond two wetland bogs, turn left on gravel road (Goat Ranch Road) with sign arrows to Camp Spillman. About .2 miles west, there is a gravel parking area close to the lake. Nearby shoreline makes for a quiet, scenic picnic area.

Landscape: At water's edge, snags and relics of oaks are crowded by coniferous forest. Oak Patch Preserve is

fenced and open to the public by written permission obtained by writing to Reid Schuller, Natural Area Preserve Program, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 47046, Olympia, WA 98504-7046.

Pierce County: Seeley Lake Park

Location: 9112 Lakewood Drive SW

Open: Daylight hours

Directions: From Interstate 5, take exit 127 and go one block north on South Tacoma Way; turn west on 100th Street SW and north on Lakewood Drive SW. Seeley Lake Park is on the west side of the road, adjacent to the Lakewood Community Center.

Landscape: From the parking lot, follow the path west towards old individual oaks and stands with semi-closed canopies. Nearby wetland has excellent specimens of Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). Easy side trips include Fort Steilacoom Park at 8714 - 87th Ave. SW and Lakewold Gardens (reservations: 206-584-3360).

Thurston County: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area

Location: 18 miles south of Olympia

Open: Daylight hours (during hunting season in October and November, read signs for instructions)

Directions: Exit 88 from Interstate 5. Turn east on Pacific Highway SW, and then west on 183rd Avenue SW, which crosses back over I-5. Pass Case Road SW, and turn north on Guava Street. This leads to a graveled parking area near the historic Emerson house and large red barn.

Landscape: The 1269 acres contain old oak woodlands. Two side trips are possible, west to Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, and northeast on 507 through Fort Lewis Military Reservation with oaks and relic stands of *Pinus ponderosa* visible from the road.

Sources of Garry Oak

Call first to inquire about supply of seeds or seedlings.

Colvos Creek Farm: 1932 1st Avenue, #505, Seattle, WA 98101; (206) 441-1509. (seedlings)

Inside Passage: PO Box 639, Port Townsend, WA 98368; (206) 781-3575. (seeds)

Judd Creek Wetland & Native Plant Nursery: 20929-111th Avenue SW, Vashon, WA 98070; (206) 463-2812. (seedlings)

Woodbrook Nursery: 1620-59th Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335; (206) 265-6271. (seedlings)

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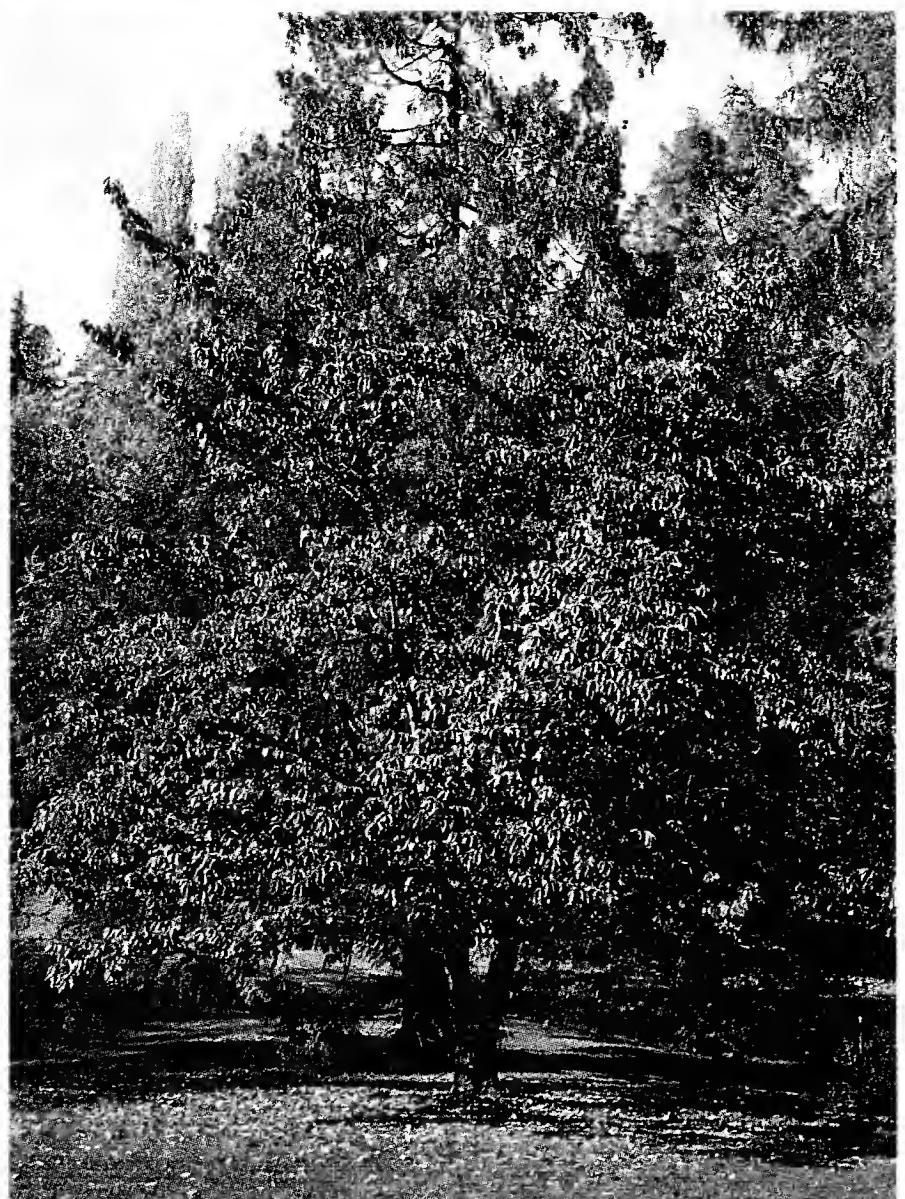
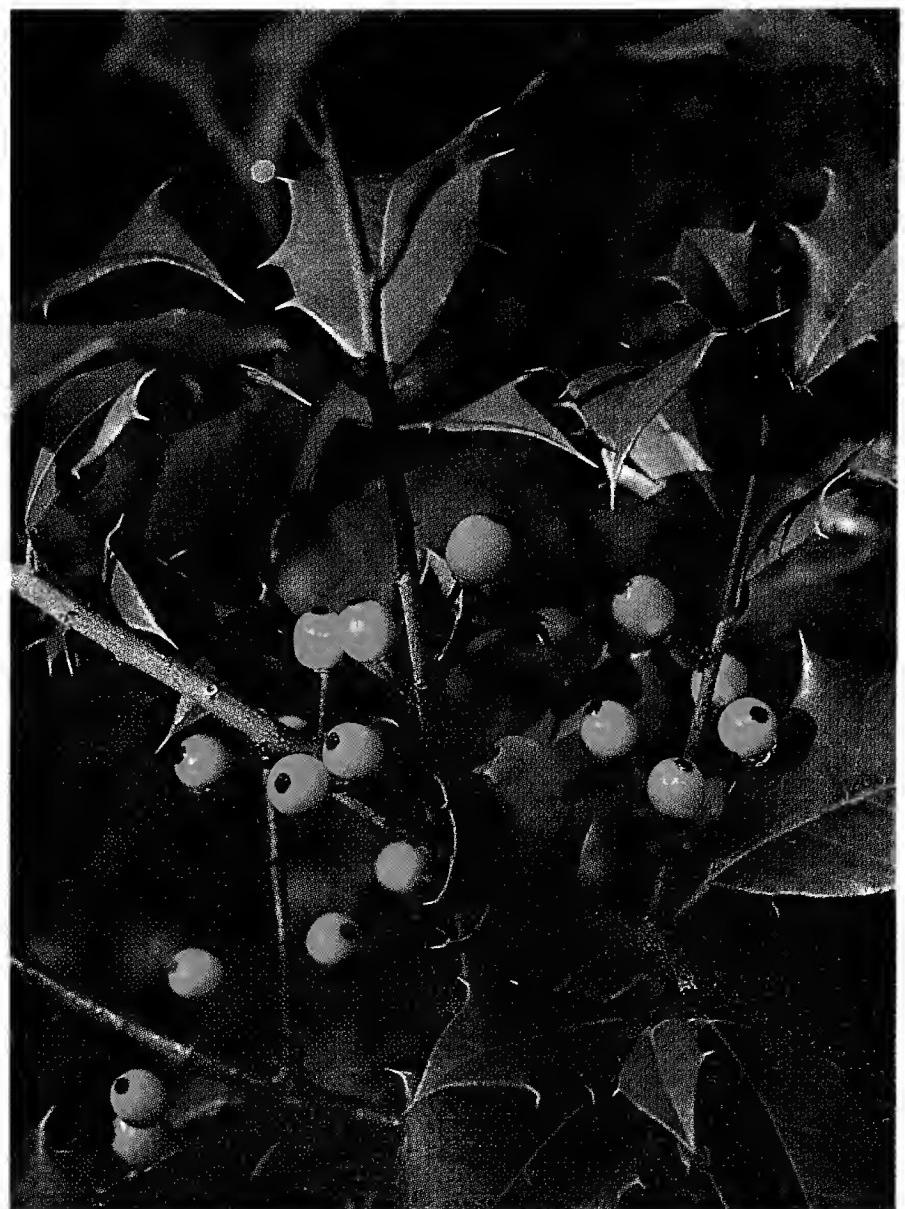
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Comparing Woody Plant Collections of Western Washington

by Larry G. Vickerman
photos by Joy Spurr
story on page 12



Examples of some of Washington Park Arboretum's unduplicated collections are depicted from upper left to lower right: *Quercus robur* 'Concordia' (oak), *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn), *Magnolia liliiflora* (magnolia), *Ilex opaca* 'Canary' (holly), and *Prunus sargentii* (cherry).

For over 50 years the Washington Park Arboretum has been a focal point of woody plant collections in western Washington. During spring 1993, I completed a study at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture, which oversees the Arboretum. My research attempted to determine the importance of the Arboretum's woody collections in the region.

The goal of my study was to provide insight into the continuing development of the collections and to help Arboretum staff and The Arboretum Foundation determine its future direction of development. To do this, I surveyed and compared the Arboretum's collections with those of thirteen other public gardens in western Washington that have records for woody plant collections.

I addressed two main questions in the study. First, I wanted to know what types of documented woody plant collections exist in this region and how they are funded and utilized. Second, I wanted to find out precisely which individual woody plant species constitute the region's documented collections and where they are located. The results of the study revealed which of the Arboretum's existing collections are important in the region and warrant further renewal and development. Another important result of the study, however, was finding out about other significant collections located in the region's public gardens.

The Collections

Thirteen public gardens had sufficient documentation about their collections to be in the study. In Seattle, they included: The Carl S. English Gardens, Children's Hospital, the Medicinal Herb Garden, the Seattle Center Water Conservation Garden, South Seattle Community College Arboretum, and the Woodland Park Rose Garden. Also included were Tacoma's Point Defiance Park Rose Garden and the Northwest Native Garden; Rhody Ridge near Martha Lake in Snohomish County; Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens, Greenbank (Whidbey Island); the Rhododendron Species Foundation, Federal Way; the Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island; and the Wind River Arboretum in Carson, Washington, northeast of Portland on the Columbia Gorge.

Each of the 13 study gardens was originally developed for unique purposes, as reflected by their collections. Most of these collections are being developed to attract specific collection support or address specific missions.

Some of the more significant regional collections are as follows:

• Children's Hospital contains extensive collections of maples, heaths, and heathers.

• Rhododendron Species Foundation was created to acquire an outstanding collection of rhododendrons for research, cultivation, display, and dissemination, which is now known as the *Rhododendron* Species Botanical Garden.

• Rhody Ridge, in addition to having an extensive collection of *Rhododendron* species and cultivars, also contains a significant number of bog laurel and Japanese maple cultivars.

• The Northwest Native Garden features the only documented collection of plants native to western Washington.

• Bloedel Reserve's major strength is extensive collections of maples, spruces, pines, and oaks.

I compared the plant inventories of these gardens with those of the Washington Park Arboretum. The results highlight the importance of some of the Arboretum's collections while identifying other important collections in the Pacific Northwest region.

A total of 2099 woody taxa in the 13 gardens cannot be found in the Arboretum collections. The largest collection groups found outside of the Arboretum were 500 *Rhododendron* species at the Rhododendron Species Foundation, over 800 *Rhododendron* cultivars at Meerkerk Rhododendron Test Garden, 266 *Rosa* cultivars found at the Woodland Park Rose Garden, and 150 *Rosa* cultivars at Point Defiance Rose Garden. Of total taxa per garden not duplicated at Washington Park Arboretum, Meerkerk had the majority of these, mostly *Rhododendron* cultivars.

In terms of plant taxa, the contributions of most of the gardens outside of Washington Park Arboretum were in cultivar collections. Of the 2099 taxa identified, 459 (almost 22%) were natural taxa (botanical species, varieties, and subspecies) while 1640 (about 78%) were horticultural varieties (cultivars). Of the natural taxa, 298 (86.3%) occurred in only one of the study gardens. Similarly, 1377 cultivars (84%) were found in only one of the study gardens. Species of *Rhododendron* accounted for 252 (54.6%) of the 461 natural taxa identified while 781 (47.6%) of the 1640 horticultural varieties identified were *Rhododendron* cultivars. Collectively, *Rhododendron* species and cultivars comprised almost half (49.2%) of the taxa identified.

What the Study Discovered

Although individual taxa within the Washington Park Arboretum collection can be found in

the various other study gardens, none of these gardens have significant duplication of the existing special collections at the Arboretum; the exception is the number and diversity of natural taxa of *Rhododendron* in the Rhododendron Species Foundation collection. Many collections exist at the Arboretum that have little or no duplication elsewhere in the region, such as species roses.

Significant collections based on family or genus at the Washington Park Arboretum that are not duplicated regionally to any major degree include the Aceraceae (maple family), Pinaceae (pine), Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle), and generic collections of *Abies* (fir), *Cotoneaster*, *Crataegus* (hawthorn), *Pinus* (pine), *Ilex* (holly), *Prunus* (cherry), *Quercus* (oak), and *Sorbus* (mountain ash). Duplication in the study gardens generally only occurred among the most common species, subspecies, and varieties.

The Washington Park Arboretum still houses a wealth of uncommon taxa that are not found growing anywhere else in the region. One problem lies in the fact that many of these taxa are not grouped into any meaningful or comprehensive collection to provide a context. Many of these plants could be evaluated to determine their condition for possible inclusion into developing or existing geographic, thematic, or display collections. A good example of a renovated collection is the one consisting of the genus *Sorbus*; it is important for conservation and scientific study, while still providing beauty as well as useful information for the homeowner.

The major cultivar collections of hollies, Japanese maples, camellias, and magnolias hold numerous specimens that are not found anywhere else in the region. They warrant preservation as well as integration into new displays and collections.

What This Means

The results of my research indicate that most of the gardens in my study have very focused collection goals (e.g., *Rhododendron* species or medicinal herbs). Some are primarily concerned with collecting cultivars to meet the specific functional needs of the respective sites (e.g., the Seattle Water Conservation Garden). Washington Park Arboretum is the largest garden in the region to have a broad-based collection of natural taxa as well as the resources and support to focus on plant conservation, education, and aesthetics.

In deciding on changes and goals, the Arboretum should keep in mind the experiences of Brit-



E. F. Marten

Cotoneaster horizontalis from one of the Arboretum's outstanding regional collections

ain's National Reference Collections scheme and the British National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. They have devoted huge amounts of resources and money to building generic collections with all the cultivars that have been derived from the included species. They spend endless time and energy trying to track and verify all the possible cultivars associated with a genus or species. In many cases they find different names for the same selection or they find old cultivars being renamed as new ones.

Washington Park Arboretum's challenge is to meld as much of its existing and salvageable plant collection into more cohesive and usable units. Conservation, scientific research, and the aesthetic and educational elements of displaying natural plant diversity can all be achieved at the Arboretum. With proper planning and cooperation, Washington Park Arboretum can become a multi-dimensional educational institution with huge aesthetic benefits for the greater Seattle area.

Larry G. Vickerman is director of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, Kansas. The Arboretum, owned by Hesston College, is a developing 30-acre outdoor educational facility specializing in plants native to Kansas and the Great Plains. Larry obtained a master's of science degree from the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in March 1993. Vickerman spent over two years in Seattle researching the area's public gardens and their associated plant collections.



For more detailed information, consult Larry Vickerman's original study titled, "A Survey of Documented Woody Plant Collections in Western Washington." The thesis is available at the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library, Center for Urban Horticulture, and at the Suzzallo Library on the University of Washington campus. It includes profiles of all thirteen study gardens and a listing of documented woody plants grown in the area, referenced by location.



Quails, evening grosbeaks, and varied thrushes seek the fruits and cover of *Rosa nutkana* (top) and *Arctostaphylos columbiana*.



Quail in *Rosa nutkana*



Evening grosbeak



Varied thrush

Attracting Birds with Northwest Native Shrubs

by Kevin Burke

Native plants offer Pacific Northwest gardeners a number of landscaping advantages. These plants tend to be pest resistant, drought tolerant and adaptable to various locations, and low maintenance. Some are exceptionally lovely. Many natives also attract a wide variety of birds by providing food, cover, and nesting possibilities.

Until recently, many native plants have been commercially scarce. Most could not compete for space in the garden with more glamorous exotic plants. However, times are changing. As environmental awareness has increased, people are realizing a garden full of exotics can be a time-consuming prescription for trouble. They need more water than natives and are stressed by the vagaries of climate. As a result, these outsiders can become hosts to a wide variety of pests: insects, fungi, and viruses. When pesticides are used, residues can be harmful to other forms of life in the garden. Birds, butterflies, and other animals often found in a natural environment disappear, and the landscape becomes increasingly sterile and artificial.

Many of these vexations can be avoided by planting natives. The following is a non-inclusive list of shrubs found in the Arboretum and native to the Pacific Northwest, which are known to attract birds and are also valued ornamentals in the home garden.

Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)

A stunning plant of unusual form, manzanita has hairy, gray-green leaves that form a broad, oval-shaped shrub or single trunk. The twisting branches are covered with lovely, smooth, reddish bark. Wonderful clusters of small, white lantern-like blossoms appear in spring with reddish fruits following in summer. Both blossoms and fruit are attractive to birds including bushtits, chickadees, evening grosbeaks, grouse, hummingbirds, jays, quail, sparrows, thrushes, towhees, and wrens (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990). Manzanita has numerous species whose native range is the low, coastal mountains from central California to southern British Columbia. This evergreen shrub is usually low growing and compact but can reach 10 to 15 feet at maturity. It is difficult to transplant but is quite hardy once established. Manzanita performs best in well-drained soil in a dry, sunny location.

Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Also known as bearberry, this prostrate cousin of the manzanita is native to both Europe and North America. It is known for its ability to

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thrive in difficult situations such as hot, dry banks of poor soil. Once established, it forms a very dense ground cover, pleasing for its neat habit. Each plant may spread up to 25 feet. In the spring, beautiful pink blossoms appear and are followed by dull, russet berries in summer that attract band-tailed pigeons, grouse, sparrows, and thrushes (Martin 1961).

Oregon grape (*Mahonia* [or *Berberis*] spp.)

Marvelous blossoms and beautiful foliage make Oregon grape a valuable component of Northwest gardens. The glossy leaflets are holly-like with new growth showing an appealing bronzy color. Clusters of yellow blooms in spring make a beautiful display as do the dark blue fruits that appear in summer. The fruit are especially tempting to cedar waxwings, grouse, and robins (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990) and may also be harvested for preserves. Oregon grape is found in wooded areas and clearings from California to British Columbia. The tall species (*M. aquifolium*) is mostly 5 to 6 feet in height but occasionally reaches up to 15 feet in the wild. The shorter species (*M. nervosa*) seldom exceeds 2 feet. This plant is easy to grow and useful for formal hedges, foundation plantings, in woodland settings, or as a background for deciduous shrubs.

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)

Salal is a pleasing evergreen shrub, prized for its shiny dark-green leaves, which are large, rounded, and handsome. Native from California to British Columbia, it is generally 2 feet to 6 feet in height but can attain 10 feet in shady locations. In the wild, it is found in thickets along the forest edge. In a favorable garden setting, it can spread aggressively. Clusters of urn-shaped, pinkish flowers appear in late spring with large, purplish fruit following. The edible berries are appealing to band-tailed pigeons, grouse, and wren-tits (Martin 1961). Salal is easy to grow in most garden situations.

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)

There are a number of honeysuckle species native to the Pacific Northwest. Some are shrubby in habit and others are climbers. The largest shrubby honeysuckle is the twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*), which reaches 10 feet in height. It has pale yellow flowers, blackish fruits, and is easy to grow. The orange (trumpet) honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*) is widely found in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. The fruits of all honeysuckles are sought after by chickadees, finches, quail,

robins, sparrows, towhees, and thrushes (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990). The nectar-bearing flowers are especially alluring to hummingbirds.

Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*)

The handsome, evergreen foliage of wax myrtle makes it a valuable addition to the garden. This drought-tolerant plant is native to coastal areas from southern California to Washington State. It is usually a large shrub 15 feet in height, but in protected sites it can become a small tree reaching 30 feet. Though the spring flowers usually go unnoticed, the purplish fruits that appear in the fall add interest to the plant and are desirable to chestnut-backed chickadees, crows, finches, flickers, robins, towhees, thrushes, wren-tits, and warblers (Martin 1961). Wax myrtle thrives in most garden environments.

Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)

After the dark, dreary Northwest winter, this handsome shrub provides one of the first splashes of color to Northwest woodlands. Its profuse clusters of small, pink-to-red blooms appear in March or April and often last into June. Flowering currant has been valued as an ornamental by gardeners in Europe since the early nineteenth century. Archibald Menzies found it in 1793, and David Douglas collected specimens from the Pacific Northwest in 1826 and carried them by ship back to England. Also known as blood currant or pink winter currant, it is a deciduous shrub native to the coastal mountains from California to British Columbia and usually grows 4 feet to 12 feet tall with many upright stems from its base. The blossoms are very attractive to hummingbirds. The bluish-black berries that appear later in the summer are favored by cedar waxwings, finches, flickers, grouse, robins, towhees, Townsend solitaires, and some woodpeckers (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990). Flowering currant is fairly drought tolerant and performs best in light shade, especially where summers are hot and dry.

Rose (*Rosa* spp.)

A number of native wild rose species may be considered useful in the home garden for their lovely, fragrant flowers and colorful hips, which birds love. In particular, the Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), bald-hip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*), and Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*) are worth cultivating. The Nootka rose ranges from southern Alaska to California and is distinguished by its large, solitary flowers and bright red hips. Wood's rose is found

widely east of the Cascades and has clusters of small, showy flowers. These roses can be used to create a dense hedge that also provides excellent cover for birds. The hips and blossoms attract cedar waxwings, evening grosbeaks, grouse, hummingbirds, quail, Townsend solitaires, thrushes, and wrens (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990).

Brambles (*Rubus* spp.)

Rubus can be found from California to the Alaska panhandle. All are enticing to birds but only a few may be worthy of the home garden. Two tall species, salmonberry (*R. spectabilis*) and thimbleberry (*R. parviflorus*), can be used to fill a wild area of the garden. Two others, trailing raspberry (*R. pedatus*) and dwarf bramble (*R. lasiococcus*), make excellent ground covers in a shady part of the garden. Birds that enjoy the fruit of *Rubus* species include band-tailed pigeons, red-winged blackbirds, chickadees, crows, evening grosbeaks, blue grouse, quail, robins, sparrows, tanagers, varied thrushes, vireos, warblers, cedar waxwings, wrens, and towhees (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990).

Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)

This shrub is admired for its small, glossy leaves and neat, compact habit. New growth in the spring is a brilliant, coppery-bronze color that turns dark-green as it matures. Spring also brings a profusion of dainty pale pink flowers followed by purplish-black berries that appear in summer. These are edible and lure black-capped chickadees, finches, flickers, grouse, band-tailed pigeons, robins, thrushes, and towhees (Martin 1961, *Sunset* 1990). Evergreen huckleberry is native to coastal areas from California to British Columbia. In full sun, it stays a low growing, neat, and compact shrub. In shade, however, it may reach 10 feet or more. Somewhat slow growing, it can be cultivated effectively in both sun or shade and makes a valuable addition to the home garden.

Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)

Found from California to Alaska, red huckleberry is a deciduous plant that grows slowly to 6 feet but occasionally attains 10 feet or more. It is well known west of the Cascades where its thin, green, angular branches are covered by light green, oval leaves. The greenish white flowers, which appear April to May, are nearly inconspicuous. The appealing salmon-red berries appear later in the summer and are sought after by humans and wildlife alike, including grouse, robins, tanagers, and thrushes (Martin 1961). This plant

prefers partial shade and a highly acid, moist, humus soil.

As landscape designers and home gardeners recognize the ecological, monetary, and labor-saving benefits of using native plants, a new breed of nurseries specializing in natives is appearing. Many standard nurseries are also carrying more native stock as the demand for these plants increases. Some species that are not available commercially may be propagated from native stock. For more information about propagating native plants and to locate specialty nurseries, see *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* by Arthur Kruckeberg.

Kevin Burke is a free-lance writer based in Port Townsend, Washington.

Plant Sources

To receive a list of retail native plant nurseries in Washington State, join the Washington Native Plant Society, PO Box 576, Woodinville, WA 98072-0576. Find a partial list in *The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin* 55(3):5.

Also find the WNPS list in the Center for Urban Horticulture's Elisabeth C. Miller Library, along with *Hortus Northwest: Pacific Northwest Native Plant Directory and Journal* and Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*.

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Joy Spurr



Brian O. Mulligan

Garrya × issaquahensis (top), a clone of *Magnolia* 'Wada's Memory' (left), and *Rosa mulliganii* (above).

Who's in a Name?

The influences of Brian O. Mulligan in plant naming, introduction & selection

by Jan Pirzio-Biroli

The name of Brian O. Mulligan, director emeritus of the Washington Park Arboretum, has been associated with many plants over the six and one-half decades since he began his career at Wisley, one of the most famous gardens in England. In fact, Brian's lifelong involvement with

plants has approached total immersion. His continued association with the Royal Horticultural Society, Arnold Arboretum, and many other distinguished horticultural institutions and famous plantspeople has contributed to his prominence in the field.

Brian Mulligan's career at the Washington Park Arboretum spans almost fifty years. He was brought to the Arboretum from England as curator in 1946 and became director one year later. Since retiring in 1972, Brian has worked in the Arboretum offices at least twice a week, updating records and plant identifications.

Brian's reputation as a knowledgeable plants-

man was assured by the time he arrived in Seattle. He had worked at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley since 1929, having risen to become the director's assistant before crossing the ocean to America. By then he already had discovered a new hybrid genus of ground cover and had a previously unknown species of rose named after him. Following are highlights of Brian's participation in plant introduction.

Discovery of a Salal-Related Ground Cover

The Wild Garden at Wisley was where Brian discovered a groundcover genus that was a cross between two shrubs, *Gaultheria shallon*, the Pacific Northwest's native salal, and *Pernettya mucronata* from Chile. In 1929, Brian found it as a self-sown seedling among other ericaceous (heath-related) plants. Ten years later, he published its description in the *Royal Horticultural Society Journal* as *× Gaulnettya wisleyensis* 'Wisley Pearl'.

This clone is dense, less than 3–4 feet high. Leaves look like a small type of the common native salal, and the white June flowers are urn-shaped. The purplish black fruits are similar to but smaller than those of salal and are fertile, producing offspring that vary somewhat within that range. Old plantings of 'Wisley Pearl' (acquired in 1973) can be found in a colony above the Rhododendron Glen double parking lot in the Arboretum.

A Rose by Mulligan's Name...

As director's assistant of Wisley, Brian found a rose grown from seed collected by plant explorer George Forrest in the Yunnan province of China, which did not match any known species. He sent specimens to G. A. Boulenger, a botanist in Brussels, who had written a monograph on roses. Boulenger recognized it as a new species and, in 1937, published a description, naming it *Rosa mulliganii*. Since the Arboretum's only mature specimens of *R. mulliganii* (planted in 1965) are growing in a secluded, heavily shaded part of the Washington Park Arboretum, it has recently been repropagated, and six young plants of this lovely white-flowered shrub have been set out in the Brian O. Mulligan *Sorbus* Collection on Arboretum Drive East, south of the Graham Visitors Center.

Finding a Memorable Magnolia

The mid and late 1940s, the time of Brian's arrival at Washington Park, were an exciting time for the Arboretum, which had existed for only about ten years. Between 1936 and 1940, thousands of

plants, seeds, and scions for vegetative propagation had been acquired from around the world.

In those early days, Brian set out certain plants even before they bloomed. Among them was a single specimen from a group of 21 *Magnolia kobus* purchased from K. Wada, owner of Hakoneya Nurseries in Japan. It is fortunate for the Arboretum that he chose for it a conspicuous location facing northeast near Arboretum Drive East, immediately south of Rhododendron Glen.

Throughout the 1950s, its beauty increased to the point that Brian decided to give it clonal designation. Its flowers were twice as large as those of *Magnolia kobus*, and the young tree bloomed profusely. Brian wrote to Mr. Wada asking what he would like it to be named, and that gentleman replied that it should be called 'Wada's Memory'. Today this cultivar is widely available in the nursery trade.

Unique from Mt. Omei

Also among the Arboretum's early accessions were two seedlings of *Rehderodendron macrocarpum* sent to us in 1938 by Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. The genus and species had recently been discovered on Mt. Omei in Szechwan, southwest China, where it is endemic.

The Chinese botanist H. H. Hu described *Rehderodendron macrocarpum* in 1932, naming it after Alfred Rehder of Arnold Arboretum and sending seeds there for distribution. Of young plants that Arnold Arboretum dispatched to other botanical gardens in the western hemisphere, only three survived—two in Britain and only one at the Washington Park Arboretum.

This young tree was growing unlabeled in the lath house when Brian arrived in 1946. Two years later, he planted it in the old *Azalea kaempferi* bed, north of the current site of the Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden. There it finally bloomed and was identified in 1954. Since the species had not proved to be hardy in Massachusetts, it became the Arboretum's responsibility to distribute seeds and scions to gardens in North America as they became available.

In early May, *Rehderodendron macrocarpum* bears loose clusters (racemes) of fragrant white flowers resembling those of *Styrax japonica*, and the woody capsules that follow are about 2 inches long. This slender, graceful tree is well suited to small gardens. A handsome specimen grows near the west end of the Woodland Garden, above the lower pond.



Rhododendron 'Avril'

A Superior Crab Apple

An important aspect of plantsmanship is the ability to single out exceptionally fine plants from among their sister seedlings. In 1946, the Arboretum acquired seed of *Malus sieboldii* var. *calocarpa* from a Swedish botanical garden. By 1956, one seedling had been identified as a superior clone; the flowers were larger, and the round, orange-yellow fruits were twice as large as those of the type. Brian recognized its superiority, naming it 'Butterball', and sent scions for testing to Arnold Arboretum and to the National Fruit Trials in England. Probably it was from the latter source that it reached the Trial Grounds at Boskoop in the Netherlands where, in 1987, to Brian's pleasant surprise, it was published with a one-star rating in *Dendroflora*, a highly respected plant journal published annually (in Dutch).

Two Pink *Rhododendrons*

Cross-pollination of rhododendrons is a hobby that appeals to many gardeners, including professionals like Brian and the Arboretum's late curator, Joseph Witt, who came to the Arboretum in 1953 as recorder. Two of Brian's hybrids, both low-growing lepidotes (their leaves having glandular scales on the surface), were developed during the early years.

'Seattle Springtime', the first Arboretum *Rhododendron* hybrid to be named, resulted from a cross between *Rhododendron leucaspis* and *R.*

mucronulatum. Brian registered it with the Royal Horticultural Society of England in 1954. This semi-evergreen plant grows up to 3 feet tall and flowers as early as late January, bearing clusters of 1½-inch, opalescent pink flowers at the ends of its branches. It is available occasionally in Northwest nurseries, although the last plants in the Arboretum's collection were lost from their location in the Winter Garden sometime before it was enlarged in 1988.

In 1955, Brian pollinated *Rhododendron imperator*, a very dwarf shrub from high elevations in Burma, with *R. ciliatum*. He named the resultant cross 'Avril' and registered it in 1965 with the American Rhododendron Society. Judging from a photograph in the spring 1971 issue of the then-University of Washington Arboretum Bulletin, it must be an excellent plant. It is very dwarf and compact with glossy, dark green, lanceolate leaves. In late March and early April, it is nearly covered with rose-pink flowers.

Siskiyou Hybrid

In the garden of an Irish castle grows an outstanding hedge of a hybrid of two Pacific Northwest species. Both parents are members of the evergreen shrubby genus *Garrya*, and both are endemic to the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon. *Garrya elliptica*, the lowland species, has wavy-margined leaves, while *G. fremontii*, from higher elevations, has smaller, glossy foliage and a more compact habit. The drooping inflorescences of male plants are long and slender, blooming in mid-winter, where they are ideal for the Arboretum's Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden. Female plants bear clusters of purple fruits.

In 1961, a female plant of *Garrya fremontii* growing in the garden of Pat Ballard of Issaquah, Washington, east of Seattle, was pollinated by a male *G. elliptica* blooming nearby. Pat gave the seed from this alliance to the Arboretum for distribution through its international seed exchange, the *Index Seminum*. Several years later, a flowering specimen from that cross, blooming in the garden of Malahide Castle in Ireland, received the coveted Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

In 1980, Brian cooperated with E. C. Nelson of the National Botanic Gardens of Glasnevin, Ireland, in publishing a formal description of the hybrid species and describing the history of the *Garrya* plantings at Glasnevin and in the Washington

Park Arboretum. They named the hybrid species *Garrya × issaquahensis*, based on the location of Mrs. Ballard's garden in the Pine Lake area of Issaquah, Washington. A selection from the seedlings at Malahide, presumably the clone that received the Award of Merit, had been named 'Pat Ballard'.

Special Maples

Acer macrophyllum 'Seattle Sentinel' represents a slightly different aspect of Brian's sharp eye for special plants. In 1951 he recognized an unusual, upright form of the bigleaf maple grown at the corner of East Madison Street and 18th Avenue East, just a few blocks southwest of the Arboretum. Because of its narrow, fastigiate habit, he named it 'Seattle Sentinel' and published that name with a photograph in *The University of Washington Arboretum Bulletin* (17:4). With its excellent potential for street-tree planting, the Arboretum propagated it for distribution, and more than 45 years later it is still in the nursery trade. A mature tree can be seen in the planted strip between the parking area for the Japanese Garden and Lake Washington Boulevard East.

Over the years Brian has named and described



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several other cultivars of native plants, some of which he has discovered, others of which came to his attention through various sources. *Acer circinatum* ‘Monroe’, an almost unique cutleaf vine maple, was found by Warner Monroe in the forest east of Eugene, Oregon. Having propagated it by layers, he gave a plant to maple authority J. D. Vertrees, who gave a cutting-grown propagule to Brian. In turn, Brian published its description in the journal of horticultural taxonomy from Cornell University, *Baileya*, in 1972.

Acer circinatum ‘Monroe’ is especially interesting from an evolutionary point of view since *A. circinatum* is so closely related to the Japanese maples. While ‘Monroe’ produces innumerable dissected-leaf forms and other kinds of variations, our native almost never does so. In addition, this clone is very attractive and small, again well suited to urban gardens.

A Variegated Red Osier Dogwood

Several related species of red osier dogwood grow around the northern hemisphere, including our Pacific Northwest native, *Cornus stolonifera* var. *occidentalis*. It colonizes moist habitats on both sides of the Cascade range forming dense, shrubby borders on streams and rivers and along roadsides. In 1941, the Arboretum received cuttings of a variegated form from southwestern Washington, and over the years a large planting of it has thrived in that part of “the flats” (the lowlands on the west side of the Arboretum) where it was planted out in 1949 in an area devoted to related *Cornus* species.

It was not until 1984, however, that Brian decided to describe it in the *Bulletin* as ‘Sunshine’, an eminently suitable name. On a sunny day, it is noticeable as a bright yellow element in the landscape from as far away as Lake Washington Boulevard East. Over the years, the Arboretum has distributed scions to several nurseries and botanical gardens. It propagates easily from cuttings or layers and would be a valuable component of any garden where sufficient space and moisture are available.

From a Special Interest in *Sorbus*

No description of Brian’s contributions to the plant world would be complete without some mention of the genus *Sorbus*—the mountain ash. Over the years, he has developed in the Arboretum a collection of these rosaceous plants (now named in his honor) so extensive that it forms an important reference for experts in the genus. Two

Sorbus accessions have been of particular interest to Brian, both of them Chinese species that bear white fruit—setting them apart from more typical, red-fruited mountain ashes.

The first was acquired in 1945 as seed of *Sorbus prattii* from the Royal Botanical Garden at Edinburgh. One seedling was planted in the *Azalea kaempferi* bed in 1951, and a grafted plant was located toward the north end of the “new” *Sorbus* collection in 1959. For many years the grafted plant was most noticeable in early winter, a graceful small tree standing alone below and east of Arboretum Drive East, still decorated with its creamy berries when most of its neighbors had long since been stripped by hungry birds.

By the mid-1970s, however, the identity of this mountain ash was in question, mainly because its leaves differed from those of *S. prattii* in the size and number of leaflets as well as in their lack of pubescence. Was it a hybrid? Probably not, since the seeds came true to type. To Brian’s great relief, in 1983 this beautiful plant was identified at last by H. A. McAllister in England as a new species, *S. forrestii*, first described by him a few years earlier in *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine* (1980).

The second *Sorbus* accession was acquired by Brian directly from Wisley in 1950 as seed of *Sorbus* sp. Yu 13815, wild collected in the Sino-Himalayan region of China. Its identity was in question for many years, but once more *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine* (1983) came to the rescue with a plate and description, which allowed Brian to be certain that this was *S. microphylla*. These plants have attractive pink flowers in May, followed in September by white fruits blushed with pink.

Although the genus *Sorbus* is usually associated with pinnately compound leaves (arranged on each side of a common axis, like a feather) and relatively small red fruits (the typical mountain ash), the whitebeam, including *Sorbus aria*, is another branch of the genus with simple leaves. In 1966, Brian hybridized two related species of that type that were growing in his garden, *S. folgneri* and *S. alnifolia*. From this cross, he raised two seedlings, one of which he donated to the Arboretum in 1974. That tree, growing near the south end of the Brian O. Mulligan *Sorbus* Collection, is now close to 30 feet tall. Its large clusters of white flowers are followed in November by ovoid, red fruits decorated with lens-shaped spots (lenticels) like small Christmas tree ornaments.

Although Brian has sent specimens of this cross to Arnold Arboretum for testing, he is wait-

ing to describe it formally. First, however, he must write an article for the *Bulletin*, to be called "The Demise of the Genus *Pernettya*." It will explain why \times *Gaulnettya wisleyensis* has become *Gaultheria wisleyensis* instead since the genus *Pernettya* has been sunk in *Gaultheria*. And what will be the next project after that?

Jan Pirzio-Biroli is the former naturalist for the Washington Park Arboretum and a member of the editorial board of the *Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*.

For a full account of plants identified by or named for or by Director Emeritus Mulligan, a full bibliography, and reprints of most of the articles listed below, consult the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture.

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New on the Shelves of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library



by Valerie Easton

Plants and Gardens: Where, What, & How

The gardener's search for information about plants—where to buy, what to grow, and how to grow it—often seems endless. A brand new index to information on plants in books, a new regional sourcebook by a local landscape architect, and a new edition of a most useful resource directory should help Pacific Northwest gardeners in their garden making.

Clewis, Beth. *The Gardener's Index: Where to Find Information about Gardens and Garden Plants*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 1993. ISBN 1-55570-170-1. This new book functions just like a journal index—except it indexes 105 books, including horticultural encyclopedias, series, and popular gardening books. You can look up any of 10,000 species by botanical name and find out which recent books give information about them. These entries provide plentiful photographs and cultural information on a great variety of garden plants. Unfortunately, the author has sacrificed up-to-date nomenclature for the sake of "internal consistency," which may prove to be quite confusing for the user.

Feeney, Stephanie. *The Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory*. 5th edition. Bellingham: Cedarcroft Press, 1994. ISBN 0-9639853-0-2. For updated information on gardens to visit, seed sources, plant sales, and garden clubs, etc., see this newest edition, which adds a section on Northwest native plants. Order directly from 59 Strawberry Point Road, Bellingham, WA 98226.

Simpson, Nan Booth. *Great Garden Sources of the Pacific Northwest*. Portland: TACT, 1994. ISBN 0-9639879-0-9. In this book, Seattle landscape architect Nan Booth Simpson shares her

secrets of where and how to shop for the whole range of materials that go into garden making. Chapters on master planning, garden construction, accessories, tools, and plants are scattered with money saving tips such as "Buy off-season" and "Check local building codes." Look here, too, for the most complete descriptions of Northwest nurseries. Simpson's knowledgeable and experienced voice throughout makes this guide worthwhile for frequent reference, and a geographical and cross-index will make it easy to use.

Also New:

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Freelance writer Valerie Easton is a librarian at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture and book review editor of *The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin*.

For Further Information: Visiting Public Gardens by Valerie Easton

In the spring a gardener's thoughts turn to tilling, weeding, sowing—and garden visiting. What better and more enjoyable way to learn about plants than to see them expertly placed, pruned, and cared for in beautifully designed and sited gardens? An afternoon spent strolling through a garden or arboretum is not only a fine pleasure, but an education for any gardener, regardless of the location or size of his or her own garden.

You may be interested to read that the Ukon Cherry (*Prunus 'Ukon'*) has chartreuse blooms, but until you see the mature tree dominating the lawn at Lakewold Gardens in mid-spring, with its spreading branches clothed in creamy yellow blossoms opening against the warmly bronzed new leaves, you can have no real idea of its unusual beauty. And if you ever thought of the Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) as a smallish tree ideal for an urban garden, you will no longer be able to ignore its potential size after seeing the large and graceful specimen guarding the entrance to the Japanese garden at the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island.

Viewing interesting and unusual plant combinations, expert design, and mature plantings teach garden visitors lessons about their own garden, as well as about the topography, climate, plant materials, and gardening traditions of the area being visited.

What better way to spend a day or to plan a vacation trip than to chart an itinerary based on garden visits. There are a great many new guidebooks out to help you do just that. Many of these books are updated annually or every two years, so be sure to check book stores for the most current edition before planning your travels.

A dream most gardeners have in common is to travel Great Britain, visiting all those magnificent gardens held in our mind's eye all the years we have been working our own small plots. Sissinghurst, Barnsley House, Great Dixter, Kew—the list can seem daunting. However, the new edition of *The Gardener's Guide to Britain* by Patrick Taylor (Portland: Timber Press, 1994) will help the traveler sort it all out. Arranged by region, the guide describes "all the essential places of interest to gardeners that are regularly open to the public," including nurseries, pleasure gardens, and arboreta and botanic gardens.

Taylor has personally selected all listings and, along with the practical details (directions, maps, addresses, open hours), describes what is best and most interesting about each garden. This guide is distinguished from the many others by its up-to-date information, excellent writing, and numerous lovely color photographs.

The Blue Guide: Gardens of England by Frances Gapper, Patience Gapper, and Sally Drury (London: A & C Black, 1991) is part of a guidebook series, which is reflected in its size, format, and style—no color, few photos. It does contain, however, much detail about parking availability, restrooms, and refreshment in addition to coverage of over 280 gardens. Arranged geographically, the garden descriptions are lengthy, with mention of seasonal interest, design features, and very nice plant descriptions. "Nearby where the curious coiling stems of the annual horned poppy, *Glaucium luteum*, which bears yellow flowers all summer, are displayed, is a raised bed, which also houses white agapanthus, gold variegated comfrey, yellow *nicotiana* and mauve violas." This combination can be found at Greatham Mill, in Hampshire, owned by the Pumphreys, open every Sunday and bank holiday from mid-April to the end of September.

Some of the best known and most admired gardens in the world are among England's National Trust gardens. Complete information on how to find them and when best to see them is in *The National Trust Gardens Handbook* (The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS; 1991.) Concise descriptions and detailed information include special features, altitude, and how many gardeners work each garden. Particularly useful is "A Calendar For Visiting," which explains, for example, that in April you can find daffodils, magnolias, and rhododendrons in bloom at Chirk Castle on the Welsh border.

Few directories for American gardens compare with the well-written and photographed British versions. A little guidebook that should prove useful for US travelers is the annually updated *The Garden Tourist: A Guide to Garden Tours, Garden Days, Shows and Special Events* (New York: The Garden Tourist Press, 1994). An incredible amount of well-arranged information leads the gardener to horticultural events in all fif-



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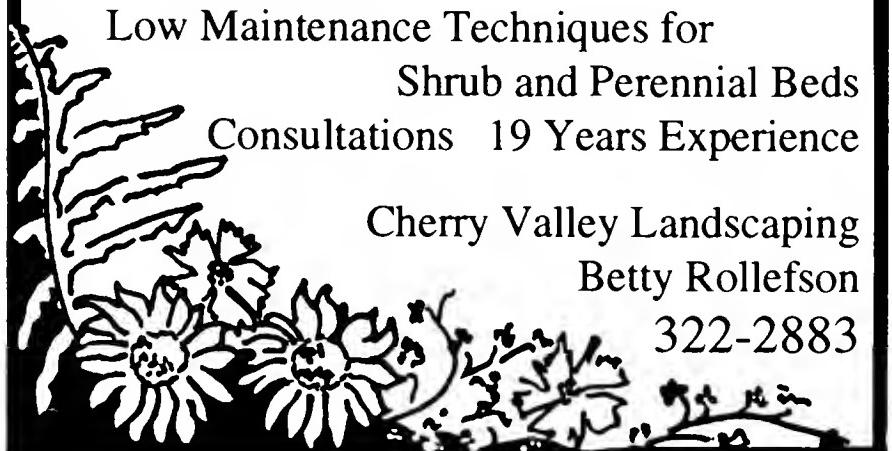
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ty states and Canada. Arrangement by state, city/town, and then by calendar date within each location will direct the traveler to the azalea festival in Muskogee, Oklahoma (May 7), the New England Spring Flower Show in Boston (March 5-13), or a tour of private gardens in Bellingham (June 18).

For garden visiting closer to home there are several current guidebooks. *Garden Touring in the Pacific Northwest* by Jan Kowalczewski Whitner (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books, 1993) covers gardens open to the public and specialty nurseries in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Easy-to-read typeface, plentiful maps and illustrations, and thorough, detailed entries make this guide a pleasure to use. Whitner gives useful information on each garden, such as the best times to visit, history, design, and significant features. As you read this book, you feel as if you are discussing favorite gardens with a frequent visitor.

Public and Private Gardens of the Northwest by Myrna Oakley (Wilsonville, OR: Beautiful America Publishing Co., 1990) is geographically wider ranging than Whitner's book, yet less so horticulturally. More tourist-oriented, it is not written by a gardener, but rather by a traveler interested in the beauties of the Northwest. Included are brief, descriptive entries on natural areas, parks, and private gardens, from California to B.C., that are open to the public at least a portion of the year as well as public gardens and arboreta.

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In the Washington Park Arboretum

by John A. Wott



Photo by Jordan Reams,
University of Washington Photography

Spring is the busiest season of the year, and March is our very busiest month. This is the time when we wrap up the majority of our dormant season work, which includes applying fungicide to our large flowering cherry collection to control brown rot disease; such work requires specific timing and is affected by weather. We also do transplanting and special pruning projects in the spring. For example, we rejuvenate shrubs by selectively pruning back all or part of them to promote new growth and hence future flowering and/or fruiting. Spring is also the time for annual pruning of plants such as *Hydrangea* and *Epimedium*.

1993 Accessions

Our plant propagator, Barbara Seleton, reported that, during 1993, the total number of active accessions in some phase of plant production was 616. This included propagules and seeds in addition to plants in the greenhouse, container nursery, and polyhouse nursery, located at the Center for Urban Horticulture. After plants reach a satisfactory size, they will be placed in the Arboretum.

How are the Rhododendrons?

Glenn Aslin, volunteer from Washington, DC, completed a 3-month project working with Tracy Omar, assistant curator and recorder. Glenn evaluated the growth and health of on-site rhododendrons. He field checked the positioning of all plants in our maps and updated the record system with all this information. This will help our curatorial staff in making recommendations for the future development of the *Rhododendron* collection.

More *Sorbus* Added

Several new *Sorbus* (mountain ash) trees have been added to the Brian O. Mulligan *Sorbus* Collection. Three trees are a gift to the Arboretum by Mrs. Conrad Holstege, Port Angeles, and were

originally received from Hillier's Nursery in England. Sir Harold Hillier, who started the nursery, collected thousands of plants and brought them into propagation and cultivation; his catalog was one of the bibles of plant material. Noted by Arboretum accession number, they include:

Sorbus 'Embly' (72-94), noted for its flaming scarlet fall color.

Sorbus rehderiana 'Joseph Rock' (73-94), named for Joseph Rock's association with the plant collection for Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. This mountain ash is considered to be one of the finest small trees with splendid fall color, according to William Bean (author of the often-referred to 1914 work, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*). *Sorbus rehderiana*, a China native, grows to 30 feet tall and is notable for its ½-inch-wide white fruits.

The Arboretum Foundation donated several *Sorbus* specimens that originally were part of the award-winning garden at Seattle's recent Northwest Flower & Garden Show:

Sorbus alnifolia (49-94) is an Asian species with alder-like leaves. Three donated specimens now reside in the Arboretum nursery. The leaves



The lower pond is scheduled for renovation.

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have great fall color, from orange to scarlet, and the tree reaches 70 feet in height.

Sorbus aria 'Lutescens' (50-94) is putting on more growth in the Arboretum nursery. Its new leaves are coated with silvery hairs on both sides and are very striking, as is the scarlet red fruit.

Sorbus aucuparia 'Cardinal Royal' (47-94) (two specimens), noted for large clusters of red berries, have been planted out in Conifer Meadow.

Sorbus tianshanica 'Red Cascade' (48-94) (two specimens) were installed into the landscape adjacent to the south end of the Graham Visitors Center parking lot.

Better Trails

In collaboration with the staff of the University of Washington, the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation completed a much needed trail improvement on the southern slope of the Woodland Garden. University of Washington landscape architect Iain Robertson had suggested this improvement as part of his circulation study several years ago. John Candy, parks gardener, and the Park Department landscape crew implemented this trail improvement to this well-used location in the Arboretum. The new trail fits the site much better than the previous, steeper one, and the area has been reclaimed for new plantings.

Japanese Maple Renovation

The Arboretum received a one-year, \$25,000 grant from the Institute of Museum Services (IMS) for renovation of the Japanese Maple Collection, primarily in the Woodland Garden. Washington Park Arboretum was one of only three arboreta to receive such a large conservation grant.

We believe that we may have the largest public collection of Japanese maples in the United States of America. Many of these are one of a kind and reaching an age where they need to be repotted. The majority of the Japanese Maple Collection is planted in the Woodland Garden, which also is the location of the first two ponds to be renovated by The Arboretum Foundation. We are excited about the total improvement of this very visual area of the Arboretum.

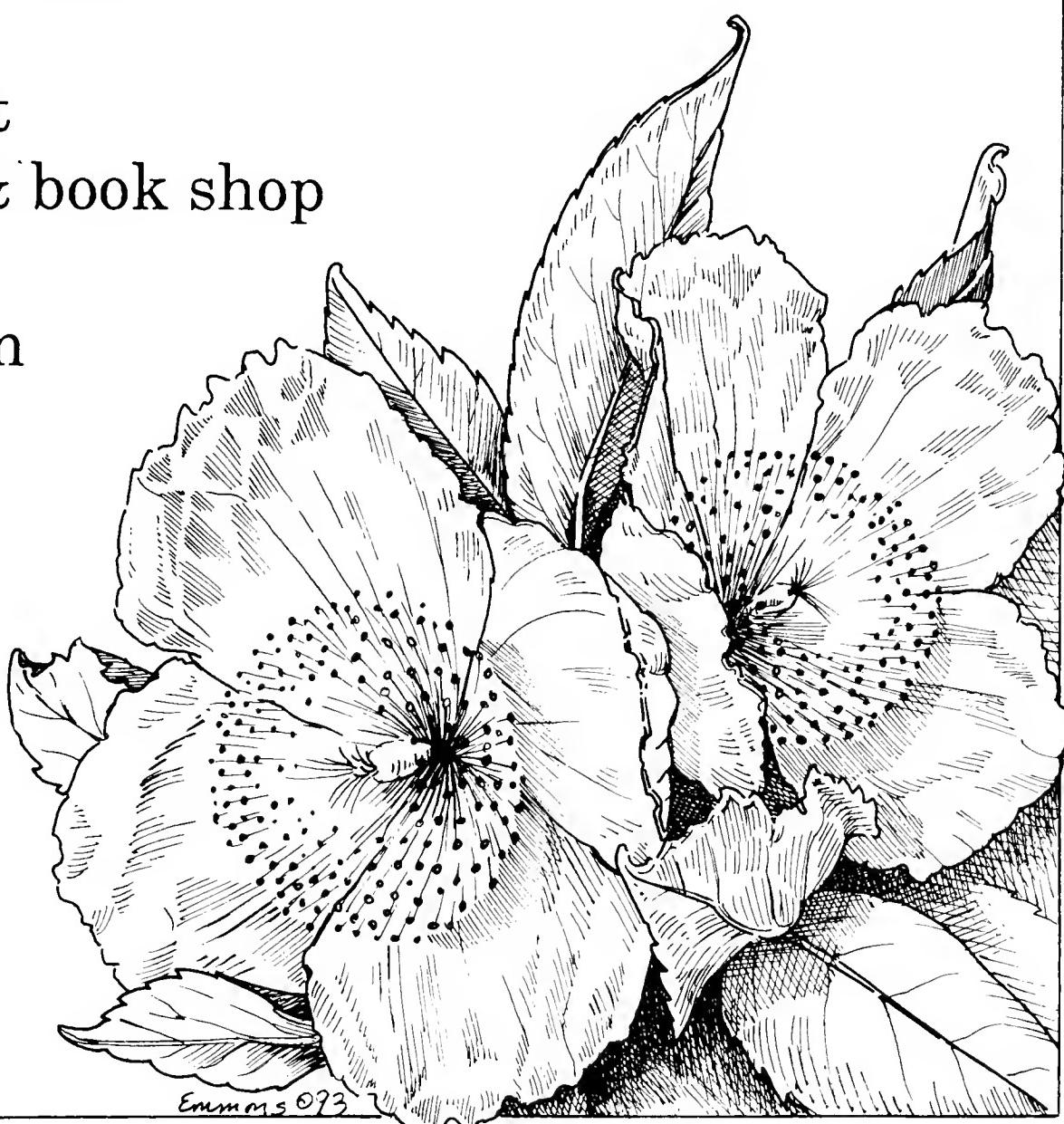
John A. Wott, Ph.D., is director of Arboreta, Washington Park Arboretum, and professor of Urban Horticulture, Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington, Seattle. The University of Washington is responsible for managing the collections and the associated arboretum programs and works cooperatively with City of Seattle and The Arboretum Foundation.

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